

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7 and 9-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 10-19 as being allowable and the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 10 and 15 and suggested changes to include the full name of the EPON ring. By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have adopted the language suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, these objections are overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sakata et al. (U.S. Patent 6,414,768). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have added the limitations of claim 8 to claim 1, thus overcoming this rejection. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9 are also considered to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims now clearly distinguish over the reference cited by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse, Reg. No. 27,295, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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